REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Final Official Action dated 29 December 2006 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules.

Claims 1-2, 9-11 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coninck et al. (US Patent 6,328,842) in view of Bock (US Patent 4,927,479).

Claims 3-6, 8 and 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coninck in view of Bock as described above in paragraph 2 in view of Wawrzyniak (US Patent 5,997,688).

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is significantly different from that of the cited arts as can be seen from their respective structures. Applicant's invention as specified in the amended claims 1, 15-19 is patentably distinguishable over these references when taken either singularly or in combination for the following reasons:

The Examiner cites Coninck et al. as an example of a machine for welding hollow articles, in which plastic shells 21 and 22 are loaded into upper and lower molds and platens 24 and 27. Pistons 52 and 57 and vacuum suckers 51 and 56 hold and position the shells in the platens. Rams press the plastic shells against opposite sides of heating platen 54. The heating platen is then removed via holder 35 and the rams pres the shells 21 and 22 to weld them together in the manner claimed by the applicant.

The Examiner then states that Coninck does not disclose the vacuum device as claimed by the applicant. Regarding this difference, the applicant is directed to the reference of Bock.

The Examiner then cites Bock as an example of a pressing apparatus which comprises upper and lower press plates 20 and 11.

For claims 3-6, 8 and 12-17, the Examiner further cites Wawrzyniak as an example of a blister-sealing device including shield 70 attached to the heating plate assembly 40 to cover the outer plate 68. This shield 70 may be a thin metallic layer that is heat-resistant.

However, in Coninck et al., a machine has been disclosed for welding hollow articles, but failed to provide a sending device for sending heating members of a heating device toward and away from two pad members, and also failed to provide a loading device for loading the pad members toward and away from the upper mold and the lower mold simultaneously.

In Wawrzyniak, a blister-sealing device is disclosed and includes a shield 70 attached to the heating plate assembly 40 to cover the outer plate 68. This shield 70 may be a thin metallic layer that is heat-resistant.

However, Wawrzyniak also failed to provide a sending device for sending heating members of a heating device toward and away from two pad members, and also failed to provide a loading device for loading the pad members toward and away from the upper mold and the lower mold simultaneously.

By contrast, in Applicant's invention, as amended in the amended claims 1 and 15-19, a heating device is provided and includes two heating members (37, 38) for heating the first and the second pad members (90, 91) respectively, simultaneously a sending device is provided for sending heating members of a heating device

toward and away from two pad members, and a loading device for loading the pad members toward and away from the upper mold and the lower mold.

Unlike Coninck et al. and Wawrzyniak, in Applicant's invention, the upper mold (13) includes a mold cavity (14) formed therein to receive the second pad member (91) therein, and includes at least one air passage (16) formed therein and communicating with the mold cavity (14) thereof, and coupled to a vacuum device (17), in order to vacuum and to draw and retain the second pad member (91) to the upper mold (13), even when the second pad member (91) is heated to a high temperature, and simultaneously a sending device is provided for sending heating members of a heating device toward and away from two pad members, and a loading device for loading the pad members toward and away from the upper mold and the lower mold.

The cited arts fail to teach a machine for welding hollow articles, in which two heating members (37, 38) are provided for heating the first and the second pad members (90, 91) respectively, and simultaneously, an upper mold (13) including a mold cavity (14) to receive the second pad member (91), and at least one air passage (16) communicating with the mold cavity (14) and coupled to a vacuum device (17), to vacuum and to draw and retain the second pad member (91) to the upper mold (13), even when the second pad member (91) is heated to a high temperature, and simultaneously a sending device is provided for sending heating members of a heating device toward and away from two pad members, and a loading device for loading the pad members toward and away from

the upper mold and the lower mold. The applicant's invention is different from that of the cited arts and has improved over the cited arts.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably distinguishable over the cited arts and that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner SELLS are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

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